



**ADULTS AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
29 JUNE 2021**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR C E H MARFLEET (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors A M Key (Vice-Chairman), B Adams, T A Carter, M R Clarke, Mrs N F Clarke, R J Kendrick, K E Lee, Mrs M J Overton MBE and T V Young

Councillors: Mrs W Bowkett, C Matthews and E J Sneath attended the meeting as observers

Officers in attendance:-

Pam Clipson (Head of Finance, Adult Care and Community Wellbeing), Simon Evans (Health Scrutiny Officer), Glen Garrod (Executive Director - Adult Care and Community Wellbeing) and Rachel Wilson (Democratic Services Officer)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R A Wright.

2 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest at this point in the meeting.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 APRIL 2021

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2021 by signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR AND LEAD OFFICERS

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the first meeting of the Adults and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee of the new Council term. He also thanked the previous committee for all their hard work for the preceding four years.

The Executive Councillor for Adult Care and Public Health commented that she was looking forward to working with the Committee and officers over the next four years.

5 INTRODUCTION TO ADULT CARE AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

The Committee received presentations from the Head of Finance – Adult Care which set out the budget and financial performance of the directorate over recent years and also the Executive Director Adult Care and Community Wellbeing which set out the priorities for 2021/22 and beyond for the directorate.

Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions to the officers present in relation to the information contained within the report and some of the points raised during discussion included the following:

- Further information was requested regarding the extra care housing development at De Wint Court Lincoln. Members were advised that the Council had purchased nomination rights to 35 units, and would also be commissioning appropriate levels of support for tenants living in the units. It was noted that it would be the developer, City of Lincoln Council that owned and would be responsible for the management and maintenance of the building. It was also highlighted that most similar schemes would involve four or five different funding streams and the county council tended to be one of the minor contributors. Whilst the County Council was generally a minor contributor in terms of funding, it would be this involvement that made the scheme viable.
- It was noted that if the County Council was to try and retain a higher capital element, it could make the scheme non-viable.
- It was confirmed that all 35 units at De Wint Court had been earmarked for people, and there were also growing waiting lists for those sites still to be developed.
- In relation to the amount of overall expenditure in adult care, it was emphasised that the amount of spend was not linked to the quality of service provided to an individual – unless in extremis. Lincolnshire's re-ablement service was one of the best performing in the region. It was highlighted that if a person was referred to the re-ablement service when leaving hospital, they were more likely to not require any other service. The approach was to encourage more preventative services.
- Further detail was provided in relation to the budget for Public Health, and how the service had evolved since merging with the Adult Social Care directorate in 2016. It was noted that the budget had been increased by transferring some of the adult care responsibilities and Lincolnshire's Director of Public Health had a much bigger budget than many of his colleagues elsewhere, as a lot of preventative services had now been included, which provided good value to the authority and residents of Lincolnshire.
- It was queried whether there would be any advantage to put more funds into prevention services. It was noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board had asked all scrutiny committees to identify topics which would be suitable for an in-depth scrutiny review. It was commented that prevention was one of the biggest issues that could have an impact on service provision in the future. It was suggested that the Committee could examine how the success of the Wellbeing Service could be further built upon.

- There was agreement within the Committee that Prevention services were vital and was something that it should focus on in the coming years.
- The directorate was forecasting a balanced budget for 2021/22 and 2022/23. However, it was important to note that the Medium Term Financial Plan made no assumptions regarding funding from government. One of the challenges was that the Council received a lot of short term funding for Adult Care, e.g. the winter pressures funding.
- A number of White Papers from Government in relation to Adult Social Care were expected over the next 8 – 12 months which the Committee would receive reports on.
- Comments made by the Executive Director in relation to the importance of the link between health and social care services were welcomed by members.
- The Committee was advised that priorities for 2021/22 onwards included Strengths Based Practice, Housing, Digital, Further integration with the NHS, and Wellbeing.
- A close working relationship with the NHS was critical and there had been a lot of support from councillors for this previously. In order to better support Lincolnshire residents, the County Council and the NHS would need to work together.
- The challenges around encouraging people to seek support for their needs was discussed, and the importance of 'lower level' services such as community groups was highlighted.
- It was highlighted that diagnostic rates for dementia nationally during the pandemic had dropped, and there was a concern that a lot of issues would become manifest as restrictions were eased. It was expected that the year ahead would be a challenging time for both the NHS and adult social care.
- It was queried if there was any indication of the impact of Covid-19 on mental health, as a number of community groups which people may have relied upon, would not have met for over a year. It was suggested that the Committee could receive a report on this subject in due course.
- It was highlighted that the Council was responsible for other services which may not be recognised as playing a part in people's wellbeing, such as footpaths.

RESOLVED

That the presentations be noted.

6 ADULTS AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received a report which provided an opportunity to consider its work programme for the coming year and to identify potential topics for consideration in the future. During discussion, members identified the following areas for inclusion on the Committee's work programme:

- Mental Health Services
- Access to services and impacts of waiting times for assessments
- Housing

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- Occupational Therapy
- Disabled Facilities Grants – this would be included within the occupational therapy report
- Community Equipment Services

RESOLVED

That the items set out above be incorporated into the Committee's work programme.

The meeting closed at 11.47 am